

## Shellfish Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2015

Augusta DMR Office

---

**Members in Attendance:** Jeff McKeen, Daniel Curtis, Lewis Pinkham, Tom Howell, Tom Connolly, Glen Melvin, Ralph Smith, Jim Norris

**Members not in Attendance:** Karl Krute, Raeleen Pert, Matthew Morretti, Jane Disney, Andy Rhuel

**DMR Staff in Attendance:** Angel Ripley, Kohl Kanwit, John Fendl, Hannah Annis, Heidi Leighton, Alison Sirois, Chris Vonderweidt

**Others in attendance:** Brian Beal, Bill Mook, Sebastian Bell, Scott Moody, Daniel Harrington

Meeting began at 10:02am.

**Agenda items 1 & 2. Call to order, Roll call, Introductions.**

**Agenda item 3: Review and Adoption of previous meeting minutes:** Lewis Pinkham called for someone to make a motion to adopt minutes from previous meeting- Tom Connolly made motion to adopt, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ralph Smith, all in favor unanimous.

**Agenda Item 4-** Dr. Brian Beal was introduced by Lewis Pinkham for a presentation on PH studies. Information was provided on how shells are formed in bivalves, and the effects of acidification. Results from Freeport study conducted by Dr. Beal using crushed shells and netting on flats. Question asked by Bill Mook about acidity levels and OH, and what is considered a problem level. Dr Beal replied a dead zone is considered below a 7.5 per Friends of Casco Bay as explained by Dr. Beal. Dan Curtis asked the question if whole shells could work, as he had previously tried it with 60 bushels of shells, when he went back, all had dissipated. Dr. Beal indicated there were no scientific studies he was aware of on this use.

**Agenda Item 5-** Lewis Pinkham introduced Bill Mook from Mook Sea Farms in Damariscotta to discuss Grappling with Climate Change at a Maine Sea Farm. Mr. Mook discussed CO2 emissions and acidification and the consequences on bivalves. He talked about in a controlled environment, his farm, he has been able to overcome the issue by implementing a series of protocols when spawning oysters and has had great success. Dan Curtis indicated LD493 is the acidification bond has a hearing on 6/3/15. Lewis Pinkham asked of John or Kohl what is the PH for treatment plants, both deferred to Tom Connolly who stated it was 6.0. as the lowest allowed and 9.0 as the highest allowed by standard DEP discharge permit, with most effluent discharges typically between 6.5 – 7.1.

Lewis called for a short break at 11:12am.

Meeting reconvened at 11:22am

**Agenda Item #6-** Alison Sirois discussed Upgrade/Downgrade procedures for water quality. Handed out an internal document checklist used by DMR of what we go through to make these changes. She explained that growing area staff is scheduling annual visits with shellfish committees from towns to

explain water quality trends, special studies, and to gain knowledge of priority areas for towns, among other things. They also create annual work plans, verify resources, etc. She explained the process for collecting samples, calculating data annually and determining classification changes in areas. She explained how the upgrades and downgrades are determined, the process behind it all, and the way it is all communicated on each level. Dan Curtis had a question on the map process, why are they not nautical maps and that information not be released on Fridays. Alison explained legal notice language is sent to Marine Patrol to verify along with the maps for accuracy. Kohl explained the maps are simplified on purpose to make them easier to understand, as they are not just used by harvesters. Lewis asked if Latitude and Longitude could be added to the maps in the legal notices. Kohl explained that both Marine Patrol and courts have removed that information on purpose. Lewis suggested Marine Patrol reach out to local wardens to discuss enforcement issues. Alison also indicated they work and meet with aquaculturists same as they do with the shellfish committees in regards to closures.

**Agenda Item #7:-** Vibrio Control Plan on the Damariscotta River- Kohl Kanwit. The presentation was regarding vibrio in general as well as the pending plan for the Damariscotta River. Lewis asked if the committee wanted to make a recommendation whether to include hard clams in the vibrio plan or remove them at this time. Discussion followed. Alison asked if there was a difference in the cooling process for hard clams vs. oysters. Kohl replied the shelf life is affected by quick cooling of hard clams. Bill Mook was in favor of adding hard clams to the plan, as it is an added protection for oyster growers. Tom Howell indicated that he agreed, as long as the plans are done regionally. Jeff McKeen suggested it be rolled out as a state wide plan, not just in Damariscotta. Lewis asked for a motion for the committee to support hard clams in the vibrio plan, Jeff McKeen motioned, Tom Howell 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item#8-** MSC Update by Kohl Kanwit. The presentation had been presented at Fisherman's Forum, this was an update for ShAC. Dan Curtis asked if DMR was asking ShAC to endorse the use of MSC testing, Kohl indicated not at this time, it is too early in the process. Kohl emphasized it is only appropriate in areas with WWTP, wanted to be sure that was understood. Tom Howell added that it is good for WWTP because MSC is more resistant to treatments used by WWTP, so testing is needed. Pairing it with current testing is appropriate. This will not replace fecal coliform testing. Glen Melvin voiced strong concern for taking on a testing process that could have potential loss. If it is not required by the FDA, why would we do it? We are already very over regulated. He does not believe we should take on anything that could cause us to be more regulated or lose ground. Tom Howell stated it could be a valuable tool if used properly.

Additional item not on Agenda: In reference to Bylaw, one member has not attended a meeting since his appointment, which is 3 in a row, with no contact with committee chair or DMR staff. A motion to remove and replace based on Bylaw section 5(b) was made by Glen Melvin, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Howell, unanimous vote all in favor. The committee made suggestion for replacement, will be taken into consideration by DMR and commissioner's office.

**Agenda Item #9-** Scheduled next meeting. Next meeting will be held in Ellsworth City Hall on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 10am-1pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:03pm.